

Rosa A. Smith

Rosa A. Smith attained her bachelor's and master's degrees in science and music education from Indiana State University. She also earned a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Minnesota.

Smith held a variety of positions in the St. Paul school district, beginning by teaching 3rd grade in 1965, moving up to the position of Assistant Principal in 1975, and becoming Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction in 1989. She was Principal of Washburn High School in Minneapolis for two years, followed by service as Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Support Services in St. Paul.

In 1993, Rosa Smith became the first African-American woman to hold the position of Superintendent of Schools in Wisconsin, serving the Beloit school district. In 1997, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators chose Rosa Smith as Superintendent of the Year.

After four years serving as Superintendent of Schools in Beloit, Rosa Smith left Wisconsin in 1997 to take the job of Superintendent of the Columbus, Ohio school system -- the second-largest school district in Ohio.

(compiled from various Wisconsin State Journal and The Capitol Times articles)